



Retirees: Keep up the fight to retain health benefits

By Judy Wishnia
COARM Chair

Because of a Civil Service law enacted when Medicare was introduced, state employees are reimbursed for their contributions to Medicare Part B.

Several years ago, the state tried to eliminate that law but UUP, together with NYSUT, won a legal challenge and the law remains. However, in the last legislative session, Gov. Paterson's threat to shut down the government if a budget was not passed engendered much legislative action. One result was a change in the reimbursement law for Medicare Part B. Retirees will still be reimbursed, but the cost will now be borne by all state workers, both active and retired, who are enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). The cost is approximately \$34 a year for single payers and \$95 a year for family coverage.

While the additional cost for this year is not high, with the change in the law, retirees have no guarantee that the charges will not be increased in the future. This is the proverbial

camel's nose under the tent. A last caveat: the increased cost is grandfathered to last winter so the next reimbursement check will have most of the year's extra cost. After that, checks will be reduced by the monthly charge: about \$3 to \$10, depending on coverage.

The Part B change was passed in a last-minute rush of budget legislation, leaving no time to reach legislators.

As for medical coverage under NYSHIP, UUP retirees are guaranteed benefits under a Civil Service law that states that retirees receive medical coverage subject to approval of the state Legislature—which, in the past, has mirrored the medical coverage of active workers represented by UUP.

So far, there has been no movement to change the law guaranteeing retiree benefits. But considering what happened to the Part B law, UUP retired members are urged to be vigilant and to keep tabs on their NYSHIP coverage.

Meanwhile, the UUP Negotiations Team has agreed to meet with a COARM delegation before discussing health coverage in contract talks with the state.



ELECTION INFORMATION

In early January, UUP begins the process for its 2011-2013 Retiree Elections.

Check out the details inside, beginning on page 10.

Study shows elders mostly 'self-report' abuse

By Don Cohen
Albany

Preliminary results of the first statewide study on elder abuse are in—and they don't paint a pretty picture.

The three-year study was underwritten by a grant from the New York State William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund.

Among the initial findings are:

- The prevalence rate of self-reported elder abuse in New York state was nearly 24 times greater than that found in the official cases reported to official elder

abuse and social service agencies, legal services, county attorneys etc.

- "Emotional/sexual abuse" was cited as the most common form of mistreatment as recorded by official agencies, in contrast to "financial exploitation" cited personally by the elderly as the most prevalent form of abuse.

- Based on the general population of older New Yorkers, the study concludes that the prevalence rate suggests an estimated 268,280 older adults have been victims of at least one form of elder abuse since turning 60.

The elder abuse study provides impor-

tant baseline data for future research, policy and legislative possibilities. A final findings report is scheduled for June 2011.

The findings were shared during a recent conference on elder abuse. Lifespan's Art Mason, a veteran community social worker in the field of elder abuse prevention and education, was the key planner and organizer of the study, and served as conference chair.

Mary Ann Cook, president of Lifespan and a key study supporter, was the official conference host.

Presenting the initial findings of the see **ELDER ABUSE**, page 15

The Active Retiree

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Life as I see it ...

Are we over-medicating?

By Henry Geerken
 Cobleskill

I know some readers are going to be disappointed with this article because it isn't funny. But perhaps after reading it they will forgive me.

I have admired the efforts of Don Cohen and others in dealing with the very serious subject of elder abuse and can tell stories about my own hospital experiences to lend credence to their efforts.

There is another area of growing old that may need closer examination. This is over-medication of our senior population. It is an area that is as elusive as quicksilver because who is to say when one pill is enough and another pill becomes too many?

I am currently taking 32 pills within a 24-hour period. (If I include two pills I take overnight "as needed," the count would be 34.)

I know that there are some readers out there who will laugh and tell me that they take more than that and my question is: Are they all necessary?

When I look back on the history of my own pill taking, I find that most of them were prescribed during an event in my life. For example, when I had gout I was given a pill that cured me. But I have never stopped taking it, even though my diet has greatly diminished the chances of a gout attack.

So, when my annual health exam rolled around, I started asking if I needed to continue taking all these pills. There was no clear consensus. My impression was: "If you are still alive, why mess with Mother Nature?" Be a good lad now and swallow the pill."

I don't want to mess with Mother Nature because my wife Diane would find out and if you thought gout was



Geerken

painful you have no concept what a woman trifled with can do to cause you pain. (I vaguely recall a woman named Elaine Bobbitt?)

On a couple of yearly visits the doctor wanted me to take a change in my medication and to keep a two-week diary recording my emotions and effects.

("You know, Henry, if you suddenly found yourself in the garage in the middle of the night crocheting a noose, be sure to jot that down".) Or better yet "Henry, if you start to notice that your brassier starts creeping up over your head, jot that down." (I stopped both "experiments" when I found myself trying to set a new world

record for holding my breath beyond 10 minutes.)

It was not easy. I got into an argument with my urologist when he could not define the outcome if I decided to undergo surgery to "loosen the grip my prostrate had on my urethra." I was supposed to undergo painful invasive surgery to "see if things got better."

Things got better when I took a learned friend's advice and added a gel-

cap of cranberry extract. Low and behold, Niagara Falls!

In fact, I can beat our dog Benji five out of seven times in hitting a thistle behind the barn. (The other two times I get a wet shoe.)

All my efforts to reduce my medication intake resulted in dropping one pill for two others that are more effective.

So, I take my pills, give thanks each day for seeing another sunrise, and enjoy the "high."

Oh, and when you see me again, ask me to tell you about the time I accused Diane of moving our house to Westchester County.

"I take my pills
 and give thanks
 each day for
 seeing another
 sunrise."

From the COARM chair

The battle for Social Security

The recent elections that swept many conservative Republicans into Congress has raised alarms about the future of Social Security. Perhaps it is time to consider what possible changes in the system would mean to the 58.7 million Americans who receive benefits.

Seventy-five years ago (Aug. 14, 1935) President Franklin Roosevelt signed the law creating Social Security. The law, part of the New Deal, came in the depths of the depression when more than one-half of America's elderly lived in dire poverty. Most business leaders and the Republican party thought that if the government took responsibility for aiding senior citizens, it would be "a dangerous trampling of individual liberty and was likely to bankrupt the government," and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was Roosevelt's attempt to "socialize America." (Sound familiar?) Roosevelt appealed to the public in his famous radio fireside chats and the public responded by electing him in 1936 by an overwhelming majority.

Today, Social Security is one of the government's most popular programs, providing more than \$600 billion in benefits to seniors and families with disabled or deceased breadwinners. The average monthly benefit is \$1,067 and for 64 percent of seniors, Social Security is their primary source of income (*Newsday*, Oct. 11, 2010).

Every month, almost three million New Yorkers receive \$3.5 billion in payments, Social Security checks go to nearly 2.5 million seniors, more than 250,000 children receive Social Security survivor benefits, more than 450,000 receive disability benefits, and another 250,000-plus New York widows and orphans receive benefits, averaging \$12,889 annually or \$1,074 a month. Every year, Social Security pumps more than \$36 billion into the New York economy (NYSUT/AFT/NEA/NYS Alliance for Retired Americans).

But after running a surplus for years and building up a sizable trust fund, Social Security is now dispensing more money than it is taking in. It is projected

**“Working Americans
of all ages have contributed
to Social Security and that
money belongs to them (us!).”**



WISHNIA

that, within 30 years, the system will be in serious trouble. Clearly something has to be done. But what?

President Barack Obama has created the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which is looking at ways to lower the deficit. They are looking at programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, because as the famous bank robber Willie Sutton said, "that's where the money is." Unfortunately, the co-chairs of the commission are Erskine Bowles—who told a news program, "We are going to mess with Medicare and Social Security"—and former Republican Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson—who likened Social Security to a milk cow with 310 million tits. (ARA Friday alert, Oct. 1, 2010, and the National Committee to Protect Social Security). Not surprisingly, the first report from the commission recommends raising the retirement age to 69 and cutting benefits.

Members of Congress have also chimed in. Some Republicans want to return to George W. Bush's plan to privatize Social Security, a plan rejected by the majority of citizens who did not want to expose their money to the wolves on Wall Street. U.S. Rep. John Boehner, the likely future Speaker of the House, wants to raise the retirement age to 70, and some have gone as far as to recommend 75. But according to Dean Baker of the Center for Economic Policy Research, 45 percent of workers over the age of 58 hold physically demanding jobs and poor people have a lower life expectancy (*Washington Independent*, Aug. 26, 2010).

So what can be done to insure that Social Security will be there for our chil-

dren and grandchildren? First, there is the fact that Social Security is owed \$2.6 trillion previously *loaned* to the federal government in the years when Social Security surpluses were routinely used to help balance the federal budget.

A more secure way to bring in more revenue is to raise the tax cap. Under the current law, contributions are based on earnings that fall below an annual cap, which is currently \$106,000. In the past, this covered about 90 percent of contributors. Today, that figure is only 83 percent, primarily because the highest paid 6 percent of contributors have been rising faster than the vast majority who earn less than the cap. Some have even suggested eliminating the cap so that the richest earners would pay their fair share. Christine Weller of the Center for American Progress calculates that eliminating the cap would get very close to eliminating the entire Social Security deficit for the next 75 years (*Ibid*).

Today, 77 percent of Americans—68 percent of Republicans—believe that Washington politicians should leave Social Security alone. In fact, a June poll found that 75 percent of Tea Party supporters favor Social Security and Medicare (*The New York Times/CBS* poll, April 2010).

Working Americans of all ages have contributed to Social Security and that money belongs to them (us!) and should not be used to solve the fiscal crisis brought on by the bad policies of the past.

Let's make sure that the enemies of Social Security hear our voices.

Judith Wisknia

Regional meetings

Capital District COARM takes on political tumult

By Al Magid

Albany

The fall calendar of COARM's Capital District Region was keyed to the political season.

On Oct. 12, its forum speaker program addressed the topic "Political Tumult: What's In Store for New York's Next Governor?"

The event—held at UAlbany's Alumni House—featured guest speakers Assemblyman Jack McEneny (D-Albany), a member of the Assembly Majority Conference, and Matt Dill, director of member services for the Assembly Minority Conference, and vice chair and political director of the Saratoga County Republican Committee.

As with previous Capital Region COARM forum programs, the lead-in was a social hour for the attendees: SUNY retirees and actives, including academics and professionals, from Albany, Cobleskill, New Paltz and System Administration, and other guests.

Reports were presented by Don Cohen, UAlbany emeritus professor and a member of COARM's Capital District Executive Committee; Judy Wishnia, Stony Brook emeritus professor and COARM chair; and UUP member benefits specialist Karen Dombrowski.

Cohen spoke about elder abuse and its public policy implications; Wishnia discussed Medicare, Social Security and other retiree benefits, as well as the recent decision by UAlbany to close admissions to programs and possibly eliminate faculty lines in French, Italian, Slavic Studies (including Russian language), classics and theater; and Dombrowski outlined the range of discount programs available to UUP members.

Their talks were followed by stimulating presentations by McEneny and Dill.

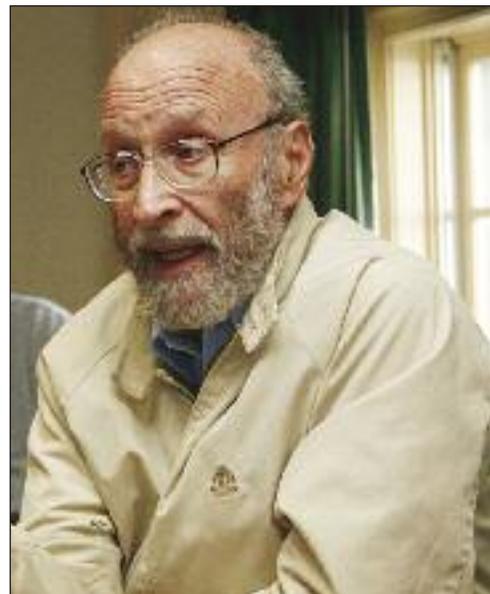
McEneny discussed the impending New York gubernatorial election within the context of a political season heated up by the Tea Party movement; by strong anti-incumbent sentiment throughout the country; by polarization between the two



KATIE GEERKEN

Above, state Assemblyman Jack McEneny listens to the discussion before addressing Capital District retirees.

Right, Capital District Region Chair Al Magid makes a point.



major parties in both Houses of Congress; by a continuing "dumbing down" and growing coarseness in the nation's political life; by the floodtide of political money inspired by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United campaign-finance case; and by an apparent widespread dissatisfaction with the current administration's policies enacted over the last two years by the Democratic-controlled Senate and House in Washington.

Dill's remarks on the political season and impending gubernatorial election highlighted the absence of strong, effective executive and legislative leadership in both major parties at the state and national levels; the inadequacies of political communication between the political leadership class and the electorate in an era dominated by the 24-hour media cycle and sound bites; and the failure to effect interparty compromise in the legislative

process, in a larger public interest.

A robust hour-long Q-and-A followed.

Currently, COARM's Capital District Executive Committee members (Chair Al Magid, Cohen, Jim Kiepper and Hy Kuritz) are planning the spring calendar, centered on a forum speaker program to be held sometime in May. It will address the topic "Community Colleges in Public Higher Education: Past, Present, Future." Stay tuned for details as to date and venue.

Southern Tier retirees meet at various chapters

By Jo Schaffer

Cortland

OK. The leaves are gone. The view was straightforward. The roads were dry. And the Southern Tier is reporting in!

Experience is a better teacher than the proverb would have us think. I have been organizing campus/chapter meetings in place of regional ones. The attendance has been far better; the members know we care enough to go to them; it is more informal; and easier to socialize and hear member comments directly. Going to the chapters is also a much more economical way of being in touch with our members.

In mid-October, at a brunch meeting attended by 70 people, the Cortland emeriti/retirees had the pleasure and interest to listen to the county district attorney talk about "Prosecution in Defense of the Community." Public safety is an issue, which concerns many of our older citizens and the DA more than fully addressed their questions.

It was also a chance for me to bring them up to date on current issues before COARM, specifically those about elder abuse, Medicare benefits, protecting Social Security and the defense of SUNY.

Over the years, I have developed a close and good working relation with the college administration, so we share some of the expenses and get to chide each other in a public arena to everyone's benefit.



BRIAN TAPPEN

A contingent of Cortland retirees—including Jo Schaffer, left—traveled to Syracuse to staff NYSUT "get out the vote" phone banks.

AND THEN SOME ...

In addition to the chapter meetings, I was invited by United Auto Workers (UAW) retirees in Ithaca to be the featured speaker at the

October meeting. I even had a short article on the ARA for their retiree newsletter. I urged them to remain active and involved as retired unionists and to fight for the issues that mattered to them while active workers: education for their children; an accessible SUNY; health care; and protection of Medicare.

Additionally, I have been a faithful participant at the Syracuse Central NY ARA group. It is a very active and progressive group consisting mainly of NYSUT, UBEW, SEIU and UAW retirees, as well as former firefighters. I am the only UUP member to attend. If anyone wants more information on meeting times and places, please contact me.

I shared with them the final draft of the COARM publication *Organizing Your Vital Records*. I have received good feedback on this latest service offered by COARM to UUP retirees.

Later in the month, I took the show on the road to SUNY Binghamton, and then on to a joint meeting at Delhi/Oneonta. I was delighted to have both UUP chapter presidents present to offer comments and greetings. Bob Pompei, a recent Binghamton retiree and appointee (along with COARM Chair Judy Wishnia) to the SUNY Council for Retiree Resources, joined me to give a brief report on that committee's activities.

LI retirees discuss legislation, negotiations, benefits

By Barbara Maertz

Farmingdale

Awonderful brunch meeting was attended by a very energetic group of COARM retirees Nov. 17, on the Farmingdale campus.

In addition to the usual good conversation and fellowship, a lot of information was relayed to more than 40 retiree members from the Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook and Stony Brook HSC chapters.

Charles McAteer, UUP Outreach Committee member from Stony Brook, discussed the post-election legislative issues. He described the anticipated effects of state budget cuts to SUNY campuses and the effects they would have on UUP members.

McAteer reminded the retirees that legislation affects their retirement benefits and that UUP negotiations can also affect future benefits. He urged the retirees to visit legislators in their district offices and to send e-mails as often as possible.

UUP Farmingdale President Yolanda Pauze welcomed the group and informed them about the upcoming negotiations. She also reinforced the need to advocate for SUNY and retiree issues.

Anne Marine, UUP retiree services coordinator, discussed the dental and vision options available to retiree members. Since there are always changes to these programs, it is smart to review these options regularly. Marine answered many questions about COBRA and

benefits available from NYSUT.

One of the most valuable aspects was the exchange of information between the retirees based on their experiences with these benefits questions, an excellent reason for attending COARM meetings.

COARM Long Island Region Chair Barbara Maertz distributed a retiree benefits brochure developed by UUP and SUNY administrators as a handy reference point for all the privileges available to retirees on the Farmingdale campus. It will soon be mailed to all Farmingdale retiree members.

Plans were discussed for a meeting at Stony Brook in the spring, as well as a meeting in Farmingdale to reach out to more members.

Regional meetings

ID theft the topic of Western NY meeting

By Paul McKenna

SUNY Buffalo

The luncheon meeting of COARM's Western New York Region was held Tuesday, Oct. 19 at The Campus House at Geneseo State College. There were 46 attendees.

Harvey Axlerod, WNY-COARM acting regional chair, offered a resolution to honor WNY Active Retiree Bill Rock (see below). The resolution was unanimously approved.

Axlerod then brought the chapter up to date on union affairs.

The morning speaker was John Aguglia, coordinator of financial services,

NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. His presentation on identity theft was titled, "Just Because You're Paranoid Doesn't Mean They're Not Out To Get You!"

Aguglia covered how and where identity thieves obtain a person's vital information, and how to protect yourself against identity theft.

The attendees were given portfolios of Aguglia's presentation for future reference. The packet also contained an identity theft test, as well as a copy of the New York Attorney General Identity Theft Kit on what to do if you are victimized.

Aguglia asked how many of the participants owned cross-cut shredders, which he believes is the first line of defense at

home. At the end of his presentation, he gave a shredder to the group as a gift.

After lunch, retiree members Joyce Haines of Empire State College and Mac Nelson of Fredonia gave a very entertaining account titled "An Amtrak Loop Through the American West."

Both are seasoned travelers who not only detailed their trip, but offered excellent advice on train travel.

As the meeting ended, Geneseo retiree liaison Peter Griffen held a raffle for the donated shredder. Each attendee was given a ticket for the drawing.

The liaisons met after the meeting to discuss the date, time, location and agenda for the next meeting.

WNY-COARM Resolution Honoring Dr. William Rock

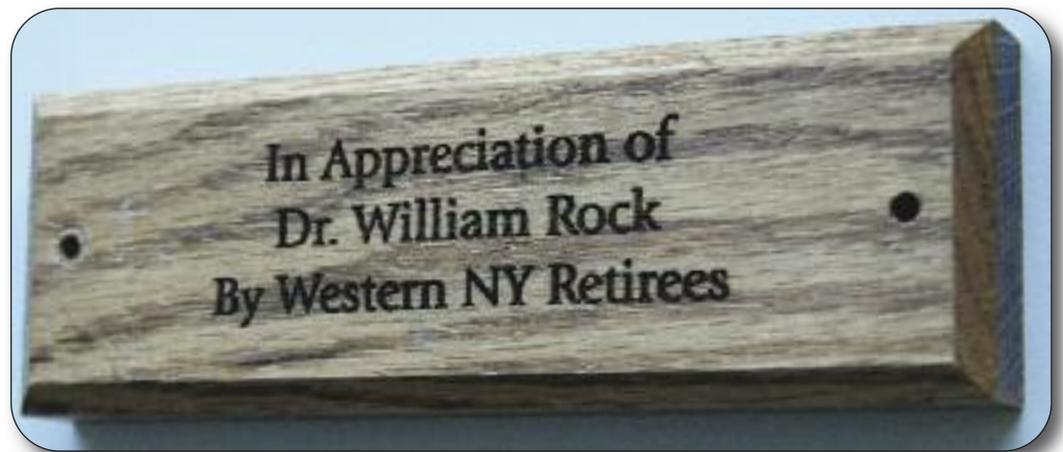
WHEREAS, Dr. William (Bill) Rock has been the WNY Regional Retiree Coordinator for the last twelve years, and

WHEREAS, Bill has marked his tenure with democratic leadership, innovative programs and meticulous attention to detail, and

WHEREAS, in his service as a member of the UUP Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM), Bill is highly respected for his clear analysis, articulation and passion for the needs of retirees, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WNY Region Retirees offer Bill our heartfelt thanks and appreciation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish Bill success and happiness in all his future ventures.



The above brick was purchased in Rock's honor and will be displayed on the Donor Wall of Hope at the UUP Administrative Office. Money for the brick benefits the union's College Scholarship Fund.

Left, Rock at a recent UUP Delegate Assembly.

Geerken, Peckham feted at 2010 Fall DA

UUP honored two retiree members with the 2010 Outstanding Active Retiree Award: Henry Geerken of Cobleskill and Dave Peckham of Upstate Medical University (UMU) in Syracuse.

“Henry and Dave are exemplary UUPers who have served the union with distinction as active employees and as active retirees,” said UUP President Phil Smith. “They are truly an inspiration to our younger members and to the young at heart.”

Henry Geerken fought for members’ rights for more than 20 years as a former statewide UUP Executive Board member, chapter president and chapter vice president for professionals.

And he wasn’t about to stop fighting when he left SUNY service.

Since his retirement in 1994 as director of admissions, Geerken has actively participated in the workings of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). As an outspoken proponent for a strong union voice for retirees, Geerken

“Henry and Dave are truly an inspiration to our younger members and to the young at heart.”

— UUP President Phil Smith

helped to create a “white paper” that pushed for a Retiree Chapter in UUP and for a voting member on the statewide Executive Board.

But it’s his written word that has endeared Geerken to his colleagues, and which has earned several accolades from UUP and AFT in their annual journalism competitions for labor communicators.

His “Life as I see it” column in *The Active Retiree* is so witty, Geerken was dubbed by professional judges in the AFT contest as “the Henny Youngman of UUP.”

“Henry’s devotion to retiree issues and his wonderful sense of humor inspire other retirees to keep on trucking,” said COARM Chair Judy Wishnia.



MIKE LISI PHOTOS

Henry Geerken of Cobleskill accepts his award from UUP President Phil Smith, left, and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia, center. Also shown are wife Diane Geerken and daughter Katie.



Dave Peckham of Upstate, center, accepts his award from UUP President Phil Smith and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia.

Dave Peckham didn’t stop advocating for UUP and SUNY when he left Upstate Medical University in 2000 as a professor in the College of Health Professions.

Instead, he kicked it up a notch.

As a long-time member of the statewide UUP Outreach Committee and RELAG, Peckham has spoken out on behalf of retiree issues in advocacy trips to Albany and in lawmakers’ home districts. COLA, elder abuse and retiree health benefits are just a few of the issues he has tack-

led on behalf of retired SUNY employees.

At the same time, Peckham has advocated alongside his UUP and K-12 in-service colleagues in face-to-face meetings with lawmakers, most recently to speak against legislation that would jeopardize the quality of a SUNY education, and in favor of more funding for the state university.

“David represents the best of our active retirees who continue to advocate for the union and SUNY,” Wishnia said.

Retirees get down to business

By Judy Wishnia
COARM Chair

The Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) held a mini retreat on Thursday, Sept. 30, one day ahead of the 2010 Fall Delegate Assembly in Buffalo. It was very useful to have a freewheeling discussion about retiree issues.

The first topic centered around COARM's efforts to make UUP more aware of the work of retirees and of their issues:

1. COARM is happy to report that the UUP Negotiations Team has agreed to meet with retirees to discuss medical coverage for active members that carry over into retirement. Some attendees thought it would be better to have a retiree on the Negotiations Committee, but there was general agreement that reaching the Team before a contract is settled was better. The following people agreed to meet with the Team: Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale, Pat Stempel of Upstate Medical University (UMU), Harvey Inventasch of Cortland, Robert Fluck of UMU, Frank Maraviglia of ESF, Jack Richert of Buffalo HSC, Jo Schaffer of Cortland and COARM Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook.

2. Wishnia will meet with UUP President Phil Smith to craft a joint letter to all chapter presidents, asking that chapters: name a retiree liaison; appoint one where there currently is none; and to ensure that the liaison is a member of the chapter executive board.

3. COARM will ask that *The Voice* include a retiree column, where issues of interest to all members will be discussed. Articles could include topics such as elder abuse and Medicare reform.

4. The composition of RELAG will be discussed with President Smith. Although



Above, Bob Kasprak of Optometry and Jeanne Galbraith of Stony Brook HSC look over COARM's "Organizing Your Vital Records" booklet. At left is Flossie Brush of Cortland.

Below, Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale makes a point during the DA.

retiree members of other committees are paid by UUP, we pay for RELAG and we have little or no say as to who is appointed. There are currently more than 20 RELAG members. COARM was surprised to learn that the expenditures for RELAG are equal to all the money spent on regional meetings (more than \$9,000).

5. Retirees are encouraged to attend all campus visits made by members of the Negotiations Team.

ELDER ABUSE

On Thursday evening, COARM's Elder Abuse Committee had a very useful meeting with Art Mason, director of Lifespan in Rochester. Lifespan is conducting the first statewide study of elder abuse.

Don Cohen of Albany brought a resolution on elder abuse. It is hoped that this will be presented as a resolution at the Winter DA.

Cohen was also given the go-ahead to attend a conference on elder abuse.

RELAG

NYSUT lobbyist Chris Black attended the RELAG meeting to discuss what had happened to the legislation abrogating the Medicare Part B reimbursement. As he



explained it: it was passed in the dark of night when legislators had no choice; Gov. David Paterson had threatened to shut down state government.

As it stands right now, SUNY retirees will continue to receive the reimbursement, but everyone in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) will have to cover the cost (\$34 a year for single members and \$95 for family coverage). However, current retirees may be in danger of increased fees.

COARM: DAY TWO

COARM held its regular meeting, during which many topics were discussed:



Left, Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC amends a DA resolution.

Below, Harvey Inventasch of Cortland, right, discusses the work of RELAG as Jack Richert of Buffalo HSC listens.

Bottom, Western NY retiree Harvey Axlerod takes his turn at the mic during the 2010 Fall DA in Buffalo.



- **The “Organizing Your Vital Records” booklet.** UUP Director of Staff Martin Coffey had some questions about the union’s responsibility. Following a discussion with Wishnia, Stempel and Schaffer, the problem was solved by adding sources lines.

- **SUNY Retiree Service Corps.** This group is looking at the results of its survey; the possibility of having a card that allows access to SUNY campus libraries, etc.; and a SUNY-wide emeritus award for academics and professionals.

- **Regional meetings:** All requests for regional meetings were approved.

- **UUP retiree elections.** Elections will be held in January for COARM positions and for AFT and NYSUT conventions. Retirees who plan to run for an affiliate convention must be nominated by an active member. (See related election information, pages 10-11.)

- **NYSUT Retiree Council.** There was discussion about electing UUPers to a NYSUT Retiree Council. COARM will check to see how much this will cost.

- Schaffer brought a resolution on hav-

ing the NYS pension system divest from Massey Coal. It will go to the Executive Board as a possible resolution for the 2011 Winter DA.

- **Fiscal responsibility.** It was reported that COARM came in \$4,000 in the black. Therefore, dues will not have to be raised for at least another year.

- **Honoring retirees.** We had a wonderful dinner, where we gave out the Outstanding Retiree of the Year awards to Dave Peckham and Henry Geerken. The Executive Board then awarded honorary membership in UUP to Diane Geerken. Geerken, a long-time UUPer and former Executive Board member, left the unit prior to retirement and is ineligible for regular membership.

COARM also had a proclamation honoring the late Norma Klayman of Buffalo HSC, a former COARM chair. Unfortunately, her husband was not in attendance. The proclamation will be mailed to him.

BRIEFLY

Union members have an impact at the polls

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) recently reported on the polling data from the AFL-CIO’s election-night polling conducted by Hart Research:

- Union retirees 65+ voted Democratic 61 percent to 39 percent, while seniors in general voted Republican 58 percent to 40 percent.

- Labor union members voted 64 percent to 36 percent Democratic, down about 4 points from 2008; the congressional vote in the general public overall was 53 percent Democrat to 46 percent Republican.

- All age groups of union members combined are against raising the Social Security age 73 percent to 27 percent; and against privatizing, 74 percent to 26 percent.

- The general public is against raising the age and privatizing Social Security, 62 percent to 28 percent in both cases.

(This information was provided via e-mail by Richard Fiesta, ARA director of Government and Political Affairs.)

Stay in touch!

Retirees are invited to join the group’s e-mail information network (e-list) as a way to share ideas and to receive information more quickly. E-list topics are restricted to issues of concern to UUP, SUNY, the labor movement and retirees.

COARM Chair Judy Wishnia said the e-list is an easy way to discuss retiree issues and to post news about regional meetings, benefits and advocacy.

Interested members should contact Old Westbury retiree Claire Meiro-witz at cmeiowitz@yahoo.com. Member privacy is protected because the group is considered private and names will not be displayed in Yahoo!’s directory.



MEIROWITZ

Notice of 2011-2013 UUP Retiree Elections

In early January, UUP begins the process for its 2011-2013 Retiree elections.

Watch for nomination forms that will be mailed Jan. 5 from the UUP Administrative Office.

As election materials are mailed to members, copies will also be posted on the UUP website. Except for ballots, these items will be downloadable and printable.

Policy for retiree statements

Nominees may submit written statements in support of their candidacies. Each candidate may submit 500 words; if he or she

wishes to submit more, it will be printed in smaller type to give all candidates equal space. Color photos of candidates are also welcome, but not necessary.

Statements must be received by the UUP director of communications or designee (kmattiso@uupmail.org) in the UUP Administrative Office by 5 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011.**

Statements will be printed in a special Election Edition of *The Active Retiree*.

If anyone wants UUP to distribute campaign literature on behalf of any candidate, the UUP Executive Board has approved the following policies and procedures.

UUP Policies and Procedures for Distributing Campaign Literature in UUP Elections

To provide equal and uniform access to all candidates for the distribution of campaign literature, UUP will include the following policies and procedures in the conduct of its elections.

These policies and procedures provide equal and uniform access to all candidates for the distribution of campaign literature. Equally important, they insure members' privacy and meet reasonable organizational needs to fulfill UUP's obligation to conduct fair and honest elections.

UUP will honor reasonable requests by candidates for elected office to distribute campaign literature to members at the candidate's expense. Properly prepared material will be accepted within specified time periods to be determined at each election cycle.

All duly declared candidates shall have equal access to appropriate membership information, to mailing privileges and to publications of UUP in accordance with procedures issued by the UUP Elections and Credentials Committee.

Duly declared candidates requesting distribution of campaign literature shall sign a statement governing the use of mail files and limiting the use of each file containing names and home addresses to once in UUP elections. Such signed statements shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of UUP, which shall check eligibility and the parameters of the mail files requested.

All declared candidates may mail campaign literature at their own expense through the UUP mailing house under contract at the time of the election. UUP will provide mail files containing names and home addresses directly to the mailing house for all declared candidates who request them.

This cost will be determined and announced at the beginning of each election cycle. The candidate must contact the mailing house under contract at a specific election cycle for all other costs and mailing details. UUP cannot guarantee a specific mailing date.

Mailing files will include only UUP members Regular (Active) and Retired in good standing as of the certification date for eligibility to participate in a given election.

Candidates must specify in their formal requests which of the following categories of eligible members they wish to receive their mailings.

RETIREES

Retired Delegate to the Delegate Assembly:

All Retirees
Academics Only
Professionals Only

Each Region: All options listed below are available in each Region

All Members
Academics Only
Professionals Only

Capital District—Region A: (Albany, System

Administration, Cobleskill, New Paltz, NYSTI)

Long Island—Region B: (Farmingdale, Old Westbury, Stony Brook, Stony Brook HSC)

North Country—Region C: (Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)

Western New York—Region D: (Alfred, Brockport, Buffalo HSC, SUC-Buffalo, SUNY Buffalo, Fredonia, Geneseo)

Central New York—Region E: (ESF, Morrisville, Oswego, Upstate Medical, Utica/Rome)

Metropolitan—Region F: (Brooklyn HSC, Maritime, Optometry, Purchase)



Retiree Elections

Request for Distribution of Campaign Literature

Print Name _____ Academic Professional

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Address (Include Street, City, State, Zip) _____

I am a candidate for _____ Requested Date of Mailing _____
 (UUP cannot guarantee a specific mailing date)

Indicate categories of eligible RETIRED MEMBERS to receive mailing. (Check All Boxes That Apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
Capital District - Region A1 (Albany, System Admin., Catskill, New Paltz, NYSIT)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
Long Island - Region B: (Hammagdale, Old Westbury, Sunny Brook, Story Brook HSC)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
North Country - Region C1 (Canton, Plattsburgh, Potsdam)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only | Western New York - Region D: (Alfred, Beekmantown, Buffalo (All), Profonia, Tonawanda)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
Central New York - Region E: (DSE, Morrisville, Oswego, Ugeton, Utica/Rome)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
Metropolitan - Region F: (Brooklyn HSC, Maritime, Onondaga, Purchase)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only
Southern Tier - Region G: (Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)
<input type="checkbox"/> All Retirees <input type="checkbox"/> Academics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals Only |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Empire State Chapter Retirees will be included in the Region in which such member's primary work site prior to retirement was located.

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to the provisions of UUP Policies and Procedures for Distributing of Campaign Literature in UUP Elections. I request campaign literature to be distributed on my behalf in accordance with UUP Policies and Procedures. I understand that each file of names and home address, provided by UUP and sent directly to the mailing house for this purpose, is limited to a one time use in a UUP election.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Title _____

Please FAX or Mail this Request to UUP

Fax Number: 1-866-812-9446

PO Box 15143, Albany, New York 12212-5143

Southern Tier—Region G: (Binghamton, Cortland, Delhi, Oneonta)

Empire State Chapter Retirees will be included in the Region in which such member's primary work site prior to retirement was located.

UUP will not be involved in any other distribution of campaign literature for candidates, except for official publications that provide for candidate statements on an equal and uniform basis.

UUP and NYSUT provide a variety of lists and labels of members' home addresses necessary for UUP to conduct its programs and business. Candidates may not access or use these in the distribution of campaign literature, except for the printed list available in the Chapter office provided by the Elections and Credentials Committee and/or the Leadership Directory.

In election years, UUP will publish these policies and procedures in *The Voice* prior to the beginning of the election cycle. A copy will be available in each chapter office and upon request to the UUP secretary.

The UUP secretary and the Elections and Credentials Committee will be responsible for implementing these policies and procedures. Questions should be directed to the UUP secretary.

2011-2013 Election Calendar

If you plan to run for COARM, as a delegate from your chapter or as a delegate to affiliate conventions, here is the election calendar. We urge all retirees to continue to be active on their campuses, to be a campus liaison to COARM, or run for a seat on COARM. Elected regional representatives are responsible for meetings in their regions but many individual campuses have meetings as well.

So ... join us and become active!

- Mail chapter, retiree, affiliate convention nomination forms1/5/11
- Chapter, retiree and affiliate convention nominations close2/2/11
- Chapter nomination lists mailed to chapter presidents and posted to UUP website2/3/11
- Mail retiree election ballots2/11/11
- Mail chapter election ballots2/23-25/11
- Retiree election ballots due3/16/11
- Counting of retiree ballots3/16-18/11
- Chapter election ballots due3/23/11
- Counting of chapter election ballots3/23-26/11

** Dates may be modified*

You must self-nominate if you run for COARM, but a nonretired member must nominate retirees for affiliate conventions.

Rome, Italy

William Graebner is a professor emeritus of history at SUNY Fredonia. Dianne Bennett is a former managing partner of Hodgson, Russ LLP, Buffalo's largest law firm. Their Rome the Second Time: Fifteen Itineraries that Don't Go to the Coliseum was published in 2009 by Curious Traveler Press. It is available at amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Talking Leaves in Buffalo, and English-language bookstores in Rome.

Good days and bad days in the Eternal City

By William Graeber
Fredonia

"Not much going on today," Bill lamented over Saturday morning coffee. "Except, maybe, this," he added, pointing to La Repubblica's "Giorno e Notte" page. Translated from the Italian, the brief notice read: "50 Years of Art, at Villa Iris (via Appia Antica, 107), from 3-8 p.m., opening of the show of paintings of Eugenio Sgaravatti." There was mention of an "artistic picnic to the rhythm of jazz." We arrived at 4, parked the scooter under a tree, and moments later found ourselves warmly welcomed by a handsome, gray-haired man in a blue sport coat—Eugenio—who pointed the way through the woods, past his hanging watercolors (some with a Sudoku theme) and a huge serpent of metal and cloth, on which two children were playing. We were ready for 10 minutes of art, a polite 'grazie,' and out of there, when we came over a rise to find (thanks Bobby Darin) 'a party goin' on': dozens of Italians (more arriving every minute), mounds of fava beans to open and eat with chunks of pecorino from huge rounds (the combination a classic Roman appetizer), slices of prosciutto cut fresh, red and white wines (served in real glassware), a gelato cart. And just behind, a large tent with more of Eugenio's art works, his collection of carved elephants and, as promised—a jazz group (talented and sophisticated—renditions of the standards, including 'Caravan'). Outside, and around, the artist's home, lanes and trees with more art to come upon, we wandered glasses in hand, full of pleasure, astonished at Eugenio Sgaravatti's generosity in hosting this grand party—to which everyone in Rome had been invited."

If it were all that easy, it wouldn't be Rome. Jimmy Cliff unwittingly captured a salient quality of Eternal City tourism in his 1970 hit, "You Can Get It If You Really Want." "Rome was not built in a day," he sang, "Opposition will come your way." He was right. Rome can be a frustrating, irritating place for the tourist. Romans are famous for unannounced and irregular hours and unannounced and cancelled events, for everything from museums to music to food.

**"If it were easy, it wouldn't
be Rome. ... So resign yourself.
As a Rome tourist, you'll have
good days and bad days."**

So resign yourself. As a Rome tourist, you'll have good days and bad days—and for two reasons. One of them has little to do with Rome, but everything to do with your presence in the city.

"It seems," writes the travel philosopher Alain de Botton in *The Art of Travel*, "we may best be able to inhabit a place when we are not faced with the additional challenge of having to be there."

What he means is that when we travel, we bring with us our moods, our complex bodies, our personalities, our idiosyncrasies, our tendencies, our desires—all available, even in Rome, and on any given afternoon or evening, to contribute to one's unhappiness. It's bound to happen, and it will. You can avoid having this kind of bad day by staying home (or leaving your bad-mood travel partner at home) curled up with a good book.

The other reason is more straightforward. If you spend enough time in Rome, sooner or later—like the casino

gambler or the three-point shooter—the odds will get you, and you will be visited by a string of failures.

It happened to us one day not long ago: Bill took Dianne on the Malaguti 250 to the Crypta Balbi museum (near Largo di Torre Argentina in the Center) that was offering special tours (she had been longing to go there, but he's not into that). Dianne waits for an hour to be fourth on the waiting list (turned out there were reservations), and they take three. Arguments with the museum clerks get her nowhere; she feels wronged (a later visit makes her conclude she should have gone off with him on his scooter). We go to old but gentrifying Monti, supposedly one of Rome's best neighborhoods for action. The streets are closed for a heavily promoted street fair, but absolutely nothing is happening—no music, no art, no fair.

We head to a nearby church to see Michelangelo's Moses, only to be blasted physically and emotionally by a loud guide droning in English to a tired and intimidated flock that blocks all views of the statue. Back to street fair—what street fair? Still no action. Off to a favorite wine bar on the street. Closed. Dianne's sunglasses break, so we pop into an eyeglass store. Nice guy, but he can't fix them. We give up and go to dinner at a neighborhood osteria; it's OK, but worn out by the day, we scrap over the meaning of a full moon. Her diary concludes: "A nothing works day. Finally home & bed."

Or an unexpectedly good day: After the usual coffee and cornetti (the best translation would be pastry), we shop at the local market and find the first Ravenna cherries of the year, chat with the bread people, vegetable folks, the lecherous (they all are, say Romans)

see ROME, page 15

South Dakota, USA

Mac Nelson is a distinguished teaching professor of English emeritus at SUNY Fredonia. His TWENTY WEST: The Great Road Across America (SUNY Press) is available at book stores or from the author.

The best and the worst of the Black Hills

By Mac Nelson
Fredonia

Few places in our nation are lovelier than South Dakota's Black Hills, rising cool and damp and dark green from the hot, dry summer plains; and few American places are more exploited and degraded.

There you may see what the American West might become if we let it: all raunchy T-shirt shops and cheesy tourist attractions. Keystone, S.D., in the shadow of Mount Rushmore, is Four Solid Blocks of Hideous, so grotesque it's unforgettable. (One shop, The Indians, sells good native American stuff.) Mount Rushmore itself, though spectacular, is four conquerors' faces blasted into a sacred mountain, a massive ongoing insult to the Lakota that the U.S. stole the Black Hills from. (In 1868, a treaty reserved the Hills, Paha Sapa, to the Lakota "as long as the grass shall grow and the rivers shall run." Two years later, George Armstrong Custer led a U.S. Army troop that confirmed reports of Gold In Them Thar Hills. The hell with treaties with savages: the rush was on.) Deadwood, once a genuinely interesting old wild west town, is now wall-to-wall casinos.

It gets worse. Mercifully, some tourist traps, such as Black Hills Holy Land, are gone, but there are still reptile gardens, tic-tac-toe playing chickens, and bears in cages. The hottest current attraction in the Hills is the Crazy Horse Memorial, under construction off and on since 1948. So far there's a REALLY BIG head, the beginning of what is billed to become the World's Largest Statue. It's a really ugly head, too, a cartoon Indian. The great warrior Crazy Horse is the only major American Indian leader we have no authentic photograph of. He wanted it that way; even more than Sitting Bull, he

avoided white people. How awful, then, that his name and fame are being used in connection with this mountainous monstrosity. It's as bad as Crazy Horse Malt Liquor, and a lot harder to ignore.

It's ironic that all this rot exists in inholdings within, or adjacent to, the gorgeous million-plus acre Black Hills National Forest. Ironic, but fortunate. Steer past the garish signs, 'round a curve, and you're among the highest mountains between the Rockies and the Alps, surrounded by ponderosa and lodge-

**"It's ironic that rot exists in
the gorgeous million-plus acre
Black Hills National Forest.
Ironic, but fortunate."**

pole pines, spruce and aspen. Established in 1897 as a Forest Reserve, it has got out the cut for over a century and still managed to preserve much of the beauty the Lakota found here. (They especially prized it for the pines that became lodgepoles for their tipis.) Large animals—elk, mule deer, antelope, coyotes, even some famous feral panhandling burros—are everywhere. So are lakes to swim and boat in, and great hikes. At 7,242 feet, Harney Peak is a tough hike for a great view. For the less vigorous, a drive through the nearby Needles—stone hoodoos—is fun. I won't soon forget the several massive bull elk I saw there in my headlights one autumn evening.

Within or next to the national forest are other great natural attractions. Wind Cave National Park was established in 1903, the seventh national park. Its main attraction was the cave, which is indeed worth a hike; but some felt it was not up to national park standards and should be

abolished, demoted or decommissioned. It was saved in 1914 by serving as an animal preserve, with the importation of elk and pronghorns from Jackson Hole, and bison, in 1916, from Yellowstone. Now the Wind Cave herd, and the herd of its larger neighbor, Custer State Park, contain well over 1,000 bison between them. If you haven't seen a hillside black with bison, or the cavorting of the orange-red calves, you haven't seen the West. Get off the paved roads to spectacular Red Valley in the park's undeveloped eastern section and spend a day with the herd. Do it in late July and you can watch (and hear) the noisy rut, the mating season, as the bulls court the cows.

And at the other end of the scale, the prairie dogs in their towns, protected here from stockmen's poison, are a hoot. Once there were millions of these little rodents in the west.

They carry on their busy lives right under the hooves of the huge bison.

My young family loved to camp at Wind Cave. We got there early one warm August evening to find Elk Mountain campground full. Drat. Off to the overflow area, Rifle Pit Campground in the national forest: a dirt road, a pump, an outhouse, and some grass to pitch a tent on. We pitched the tent as it grew dark and realized we were at the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. No tent for us; we lay down on our bags and looked up. I'm a backyard astronomer, I see meteor showers every year, but never have the shooting stars seemed so close and brilliant as that night, hundreds of them, with no electric light for miles to dim their radiance.

Jewel Cave National Monument was carved from the forest in 1908. I think it's a more interesting spelunking trip than Wind Cave, but it lacks the latter's 30,000 acres of animal habitat.

South Dakota's adjacent Custer State see **SOUTH DAKOTA**, page 15

Look at what your NYSUT membership brings you!

Your NYSUT membership gives you access to a variety of benefit programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Every endorsed program is monitored on a regular basis for participation, member satisfaction, utilization, financial health and product competitiveness.

Insurance plans include term life, disability, auto, home, boat, personal excess liability (umbrella), long-term care, catastrophe major medical, flexible premium adjustable life, vision and retiree dental.

Financial and legal services include a financial counseling program, online banking (money markets, savings and CDs), mortgages, credit monitoring service, consumer credit counseling services, and a legal service plan.

Discounts include TripMark.travel (hotels, flights, cruises and more), Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals, Motivano Online Marketplace, EPIC Hearing Service Plan, Powell's Books, OfficeMax, Bose, Barnes & Noble.com, Working Advantage (discount tickets and more), Philips Lifeline, car and truck rentals, Six Flags, Buyer's Edge Inc. (buying service), HEAT USA and Defensive Driving (online or classroom). Be sure to check the Member Benefits website, www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, for particulars on these discounts, because some you can only receive by linking off the Member Benefits site. Many have unique ID numbers.



Other services include MAP (Member Alert Program), an e-mail information service; payroll and pension deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs, which often yield reduced premiums or additional coverage; MPP (My Program Participation), an online look-up service on programs in which you participate; Consumer's Guides on Automobile Insurance, Homeowners and Renters Insurance, Legal Services, Long-Term Care Insurance, Long-Term Disability Insurance and 403(b) Plans; and MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids).

Workshops include Identity Theft, 403(b) Basics, 403(b) Employer Contributions, Inside the 403(b), Unraveling the Mysteries of Credit and Credit Reports and The Financial Planning Puzzle. Workshops are scheduled by

your local president, chapter leader, retiree council leader or retiree chapter leader.

To request information, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.



For information about these programs or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Elder abuse ...

(continued from page 1)

joint venture study were its two principal researchers: Dr. Mark Lachs, a nationally known medical researcher and author; and Dr. Jackie Berman, a noted research specialist in the aging field.

Together, they designed a two-prong strategy.

The first included “self reports” obtained through 4,000 telephone interviews with a random sample of the state’s over 60 population. The list was drawn from census tracts to capture evidence of abuse of the noninstitutionalized elderly during calendar year 2008.

The second focused on “institutionalized reports,” which were obtained by questionnaires from the official files of all New York state agencies that serve the elderly and that had reported cases of elderly mistreatment.

For COARM and UUP, this study serves as a wakeup call for union leadership to move the issue of elder abuse from “under the radar” to a frontline priority. COARM and UUP must be committed to developing a plan that promotes prevention through education, and advocates safeguarding the welfare and dignity of its retirees and the rapidly growing population of all senior citizens.

Rome ...

(continued from page 12)

butcher. We do a little shopping for friends by scooting around the fancy Parioli neighborhood. Then we’re off to a bookstore to line up to get illustrious American author Richard Ford’s signature on a book. Finding ourselves the only ones in “line,” we chat with Ford and his publisher, Carlo Feltrinelli of the gigantic Feltrinelli publishing house. Discovering that the Wine Institute is having a free tasting, we walk up and down the Spanish steps trying to figure out where to get a (free) ticket. Inside are 20 sommeliers and dozens of wines and, it turns out, a view to die for along the length and top of the

steps (which were actually a gift from the French). We talk others hesitating outside into going in. What’s to debate? Head out on the scooter to another lovely hilltop, the Celio, and the summer evening jazz series. For Euro 5, we enter a lovely park made into a jazz setting (Villa Celimontana) and find a free buffet, wine and tables, courtesy of the Slovakian embassy. Listen to Slovakian jazz, which turns out to be terrific, including a older male singing in English and great (universal language) scat. Dianne’s diary concludes “fantastic evening.”

Good days, bad days in Rome—in *Rome the Second Time*, that is.

South Dakota ...

(continued from page 13)

Park is famous for those feral burros and for its bison roundup every fall; I’ve never seen it. Three presidents—Coolidge, Hoover and Eisenhower—left the White House in the summer to fish there.

If you’re driving from the east to the Hills, don’t miss Badlands National Park on your way, and even Wall Drug, so unbelievably tacky and commercial that it’s kinda fun. (An early version of Ronald Reagan is identifiable in the cowboy quartet, four crooning statues.) Wall Drug has an excellent western book store. Another bonus in Wall is the National Grasslands

Visitor Center. Just south of the Hills is Fort Robinson, Neb., where Crazy Horse surrendered and was killed in 1877. The guardhouse where he died is, for me, the saddest spot in the West.

Sure, see Mount Rushmore; and do try to avoid Crazy Horse Memorial, or just see it from the road as I have. But don’t miss the national forest that holds all these very different attractions together in its spacious, quiet woods and grasslands. Get off the road and into it. As a “land of many uses,” it makes lumber and clean air and water, and it also preserves and redeems the Black Hills.

Copyright Mac Nelson 2010

In memoriam

Let us take time to remember the UUP Active Retirees who have passed away:

Merrill H. Archard.....New Paltz
 Jeanne H. BenninkPlattsburgh
 Jacobbi GeleisenStony Brook
 Anna L. Bliss.....Buffalo State
 Peter Boyd-Bowman..Buffalo Center
 George N. BramanBrooklyn HSC
 Marguerite H. BrowneBrockport
 Caridad P. BuncabPlattsburgh
 Frederick M. BurelbachBrockport
 John A. CaramiaPlattsburgh
 Helen Carden TrainaStony Brook
 Wilma Jean Collins ...Buffalo Center
 Doris R. CreeganAlbany
 Betty Emilio.....Stony Brook HSC
 Rawle E.G. FarleyBrockport
 Joan M. Gibson.....Oswego
 Paul E. GilloolyBuffalo State
 Saul J. Horowitz.....Buffalo State
 O. Lincoln Igou.....New Paltz
 Milton JacobsNew Paltz
 Frederick Kelvas...Stony Brook HSC
 Ruth H. KnightUpstate Medical
 Angelo LaMariana.....Plattsburgh
 John E. LeverettCobleskill
 Leo A. Loubere.....Buffalo Center
 Alexander Martin.....New Paltz
 Kurt Heinz J. MatzdorfNew Paltz
 Naomi M. Newman.....Farmingdale
 T. Richard Patterson.....Fredonia
 John H. PhillipsCanton
 Charles N. Poskanzer.....Cortland
 Ann G. RaderNew Paltz
 Peter M. RadmoreCortland
 Jack Richtman.....Albany
 Josephine M. ShaffPurchase
 Myron B. ShawGeneseo
 Florence E. SringerOptometry
 Margaret M. StacklumNew Paltz
 Clifford E. Swartz.....Stony Brook
 Norman Edward Teator..Plattsburgh
 Robert P. ThompsonBrockport
 Charles ThorMaritime
 Emily L. TriggsUpstate Medical
 Warner M. Wales.....Cobleskill
 Franklin A. WenskeBuffalo State
 Alvin M. Westcott.....Oswego
 Mary R. WiechaOswego
 Marcia WilkowBrooklyn HSC
 George C. Williams.....Stony Brook
 David H. ZodikoffCortland

Season's Savings

During the holiday season and all through the year, you can save on great gifts and take advantage of exciting offers available only to union members.

Here are a some of the ways your union membership can help you delight everyone on your list — while getting the best value for every dollar you spend!

Special union discounts make holiday shopping a joy!

COMPUTER DEALS

- **10-30% off** Dell laptops and desktops.
- **Free tech support** on select systems.
- **Call 1-877-882-3355** and reference member ID: **PS16626766**.



CLOTHING DISCOUNTS

- **Up to 10% off** union-made apparel.
- **Wide selection** for all ages and sizes.
- **Gift certificates** available.



ENTERTAINMENT SPECIALS

- The **largest variety of discounts** at over 50 theme parks, sporting events, theater, movies, movie rentals, restaurants, Costco and more.

- Union members can **elect to receive e-mails** about the newest discounts at theaters and sporting events.
- **Call 1-800-565-3712** and reference member ID: **744387769**.



Flower Discounts

- **20% discount** on every phone or online order.
- Wide selection of beautiful **flower arrangements**, green and blooming **plants**, table centerpieces and more.
- **Same-day delivery** service (if ordered before noon in recipient's time zone).
- **Call 1-888-667-7779** to place your order.



AT&T WIRELESS SAVING

- **15% discount** off regular monthly rate for all AT&T wireless individual or family plans* from the **only unionized wireless** service company.
- Union member-only **savings on AT&T cell phones** and cell phone accessories available online
- **Call 1-800-897-7046** and reference **FAN number: 3508840**.



*All program plans for new and existing customers require a new two-year contract. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. The 15% Union Plus AT&T wireless discount is not available on the iPad, additional lines for family plans, unlimited plans and Unity plans. Data services: the Dataplus 200MB plan and data plans on secondary lines are not discounted.



For more information about *benefits*, and *savings* available to you visit

www.UnionPlus.org/Gifts

United University Professions
P.O. Box 15143
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143

The Active Retiree